

Data Collection

Data for this study were gathered throughout the three-week term from multiple sources: personal observations of classroom activities during different stages of the project, focus group interviews with students, students' written self-evaluation and learning logs, informal conversations with the teacher and students, the teacher's daily journal, an interview with the teacher and final grading rubrics. There were two focus group interviews scheduled with students. The first focus group of students met two days into the study. Nine students were randomly selected from across the three intact classes, five boys and four girls. They interviewed about their initial thoughts about the project. At the end of the study, four of the students from the initial focus group (three boys and a girl) were interviewed again about the digital storytelling process they went through and what they learned. In addition, two groups of students who completed the project together were interviewed about the process they went through to create their digital story. These two groups were selected because one group (four girls) was observed as following the instructions very closely, while the other group (three boys and one girl) completed the process in a manner that was not like the one designed by the teacher and me.

Data were also gathered from students through two written learning logs, a final self-evaluation, observations and the rubrics used to assess the projects. The student participants were each randomly assigned a number to represent their responses from the data collected. Students' data used in the reflection section are coded with each student's assigned number and the following abbreviations:

I = Focus Group Interview

SE = Final Self-Evaluation

Data were also collected from the teacher. The teacher kept a written journal to record her own reflections and observations about the process. She was also interviewed at the end of the project about her experience with the process. Data collected from the teacher were also coded. The letter “T” will be used to represent data gathered from the teacher. The following abbreviations are used:

TJ = Teacher Journal

TI = Teacher Interview